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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,295	08/24/2001	Torsten Heinemann	011218	2544

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FACTOR & LAKE, LTD  
1327 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.  
SUITE 5G/H  
CHICAGO, IL 60607

EXAMINER

CANFIELD, ROBERT

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Supplemental Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/939,295

Examiner

Robert J Canfield

Applicant(s)

HEINEMANN, TORSTEN

Art Unit

3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Printer Rush.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other See Continuation Sheet

**AMENDED PAGES 2-4  
OF SPECIFICATION**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes ~~and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant~~, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

**AMEND pages 2, 3 and 4 of the Specification** as attached to eliminate all references to the claims by number.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert J Canfield whose telephone number is 703-308-2482. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 703-308-0839. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Robert J Canfield  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3635



11/17/04

surface for the wind and may possibly result in the known covering part being torn off, for example in a storm.

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The object of the present invention is therefore to develop  
5 a covering arrangement of the type mentioned at the outset in such a way that its life is as long as possible and detachment of the covering parts from the supports is reliably prevented even in a storm.

10 This object is achieved in that

d) a longitudinal border region of a covering part has a connecting device and the opposite longitudinal border region of a neighbouring covering part has a  
15 connecting device complementary thereto, by means of which the two covering parts are firmly connected to each other.

Such a connection of the covering parts to one another  
20 prevents the possibility, in the event of a failure of the fastening to the supports, of individual covering parts being lifted by a wind load and eventually being torn off completely. This is advantageous particularly in the case of very light sandwich elements which have, for example,  
25 only a sheet or a surface coating as covering elements and which could be particularly easily lifted by a gust of wind owing to their low mass.

An advantageous development of the covering arrangement  
30 ~~according to the invention is specified in claim 2,~~ according to which the covering arrangement is a roof and the supports are the rafters of a roof.

The object of the present invention is also to develop a  
35 covering part of the type mentioned at the outset in such a way that it can be produced inexpensively and connected in

a storm-proof manner to a substructure. This object is achieved in that

- c) its one longitudinal border region has a connecting device and its opposite longitudinal border region has a connecting device complementary thereto, such that the covering part can be firmly connected to an identical covering part at, in the installed position, mutually facing longitudinal border regions.

10

Advantageous developments of such a covering part are specified in ~~claims 4 to 12~~ *the claims*.

- A connecting device which is simple to produce and, moreover, is simple to handle during the production of the covering arrangement according to the invention is specified ~~in claim 4~~. According to this, the connecting devices comprise at least one catch projection and a catch recess complementary thereto.

20

- It is also advantageous when ~~as specified in claim 5~~, the two connecting devices in the installed position cooperate in the manner of a hinge, the pivot axis running substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the covering part. In this way, building surfaces, in particular roofs, sections of which have different relative angular positions can be realised.

25

- The stability of the covering part according to the invention is increased by the development ~~as claimed in claim 6~~ according to which at least one of the connecting devices is integrated into a stiffening member arranged in the region of the corresponding longitudinal border region of said covering part.

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A high security of connection is achieved when the connecting devices each extend over the entire length ~~(claim 7)~~.

- 5 The development of the invention ~~specified in claim 8~~, in which the connecting devices are designed in such a way that, in the installed position, the mutually facing longitudinal border regions of neighbouring covering parts overlap, is visually favourable and important for a good
- 10 seal between two covering parts according to the invention. The seal created by this means is further improved by the developments specified in ~~claims 9 and 10~~, <sup>the claims</sup> according to which one of the longitudinal borders of the covering part is drawn down and up, respectively.
- 15 According to the development of the invention ~~as claimed in claim 11~~, at least one of the connecting devices has a plurality of connecting positions, such that the relative position of the covering part with respect to a
- 20 neighbouring covering part can be varied. This has the advantage that different dimensions of a building surface can be covered in a simple way with identical covering parts without having to cut the covering parts to size.
- 25 The connecting device can, ~~as claimed in claim 12~~, also be used for connection to a snow fence and/or a ladder and/or steps and/or a flashing.

Several exemplary embodiments of the invention will be

30 explained in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 shows a perspective representation of a first exemplary embodiment of a covering arrangement

35 for a building;